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TITLE: PRODUCTION OF OPTICAL FIBER PREFORM

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ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To improve the strength and weather resistance of the subject preform by depositing glass soot on a glass for optical fiber to form a porous glass preform, impregnating a sol produced by the hydrolysis of a specific alkoxide mixture into said porous preform and making the preform transparent by heating in two stages.

CONSTITUTION: A quartz glass rod is polished with an oxyhydrogen flame and soot of SiO_2 glass is deposited on the rod to form a porous glass preform. Separately, 1mol of a mixture of an Si alkoxide and a Zr and/or Ti alkoxide is hydrolyzed by adding 4mol of an alcohol, 5mol of water and a catalyst such as hydrochloric acid to form a sol. The above porous glass preform is immersed into the sol, pulled up, gelatinized at about 60°C. heated in O_2 or an O_2 -containing mixed gas atmosphere at $\geq 1000^\circ\text{C}$ and finally heated at $\geq 1000^\circ\text{C}$ in He, O_2 or a

Cl₂-containing mixed He gas atmosphere to obtain the objective amorphous quartz optical fiber preform having the outermost amorphous coating layer containing ZrO₂ and/or TiO₂ and having higher melting point and lower expansion coefficient than those of the core and clad glass.

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